

I. AMENDMENT

Amendment of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of C-reactive protein (CRP)-mediated tissue damage, ~~in a subject having an inflammatory and/or tissue damaging condition, which comprises~~ the method comprising administering to ~~the~~ a subject ~~in need thereof~~ an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting the binding of ~~C-reactive protein (CRP)~~ CRP to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof;

wherein the compound comprises phosphocholine or a derivative thereof and binds to the calcium-dependent ligand binding site of CRP so as to interfere with binding of CRP to the autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof; and

wherein the tissue damage is associated with a condition selected from the group consisting of an infection, an allergic complication of infection, an inflammatory disease, ischemic or other necrosis, traumatic tissue damage and malignant neoplasia.

2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~inflammatory and/or tissue damaging~~ condition comprises atherosclerosis.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the condition is an infection selected from a bacterial infection, a viral infection, and a parasitic infection.

5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the condition is an allergic complication of infection selected from rheumatic fever, glomerulonephritis, and erythema nodosum leprosum.

6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the condition is an inflammatory disease selected from Rheumatoid arthritis, Juvenile chronic

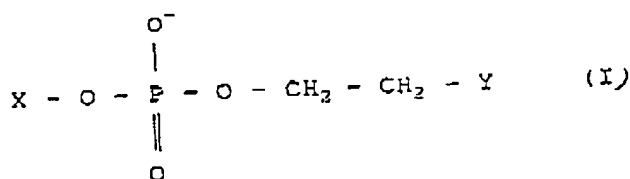
(rheumatoid) arthritis, Ankylosing spondylitis, Psoriatic arthritis, Systemic vasculitis, Polymyalgia rheumatica, Reiter's disease, Crohn's disease and Familial Mediterranean fever.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 3 1, wherein the condition is tissue necrosis selected from Myocardial infarction, Tumour embolization and Acute pancreatitis.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 3 1, wherein the condition is trauma selected from elective surgery, burns, chemical injury, fractures and compression injury.

9. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 3 1, wherein the condition is malignant neoplasia selected from Lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, Carcinoma and Sarcoma.

10. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of CRP-mediated tissue damage, in a subject having an inflammatory and/or tissue damaging condition, which comprises the method comprising administering to the a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of general formula (I):



wherein X is H or an organic substituent group, and Y is N substituted to form ammonium; and

wherein the tissue damage is associated with a condition selected from the group consisting of an infection, an allergic complication of infection, an inflammatory disease, ischemic or other necrosis, traumatic tissue damage and malignant neoplasia.

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11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein X is H or C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein X is C₁₂ to C₂₀ alkyl.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein Y is N-R₃, in which each R is independently selected from C₁ to C₅ alkyl.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein each R is CH₃.
15. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of CRP-mediated tissue damage, in a subject having an inflammatory and/or tissue-damaging condition, which comprises the method comprising administering to the a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound comprising hexadecylphosphocholine; wherein the tissue damage is associated with a condition selected from the group consisting of an infection, an allergic complication of infection, an inflammatory disease, ischemic or other necrosis, traumatic tissue damage and malignant neoplasia.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of CRP-mediated tissue damage associated with ~~in a subject having a~~ myocardial infarction, ~~which~~ comprises the method comprising administering to ~~the a~~ subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting binding of C-reactive protein (CRP) CRP to its autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof at or after the onset of the infarction; wherein the compound comprises phosphocholine or a derivative thereof and binds to the calcium-dependent ligand binding site of CRP so as to interfere with binding of CRP to the autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof.
18. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of CRP-mediated tissue damage associated with a thrombotic complication of atherosclerosis in a

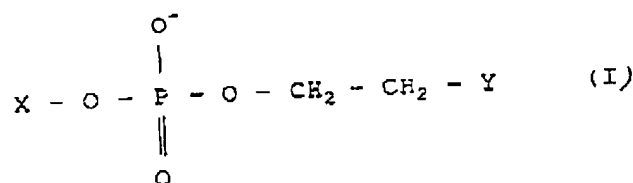
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subject, ~~which comprises the method comprising~~ administering to ~~the a~~ a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting binding of C-reactive protein (CRP) CRP to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof;

wherein the compound comprises phosphocholine or a derivative thereof and binds to the calcium-dependent ligand binding site of CRP so as to interfere with binding of CRP to the autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof.

19. (Currently amended) A method according to any one of claims 1, 10, 15, 16, 17 or 18, wherein the subject is a human subject.

20. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 16 to 18~~ claim 17 or claim 18, wherein the compound capable of inhibiting the binding of CRP to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof has the general formula (I):



wherein X is H or an organic substituent group, and Y is N substituted to form ammonium.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein X is H or C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein X is C₁₂ to C₂₀ alkyl.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein Y is N-R₃, in which each R is independently selected from C₁ to C₅ alkyl.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 23, wherein each R is CH₃.

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25. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of CRP-mediated tissue damage in a subject associated with myocardial infarction, ~~which comprises the method comprising administering to the~~ a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound comprising hexadecylphosphocholine.

26-41. (canceled)

42. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the subject is a human subject.

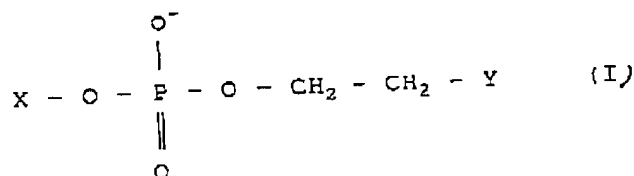
43. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the subject is a human subject.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the subject is a human subject.

46. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the subject is a human subject.

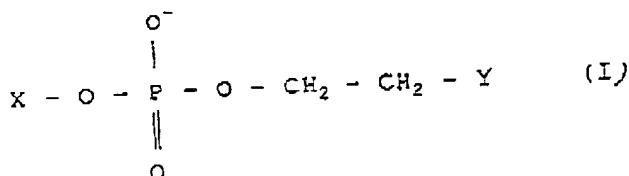
47. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the compound capable of inhibiting the binding of CRP to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof has the general formula (I):



wherein X is H or an organic substituent group, and Y is N substituted to form ammonium.

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48. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the compound capable of inhibiting the binding of CRP to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof has the general formula (I):



wherein X is H or an organic substituent group, and Y is N substituted to form ammonium.

49. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~inflammatory and/or tissue damaging~~ condition comprises a stroke.

50. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the ~~inflammatory and/or tissue damaging~~ condition comprises a stroke.

51. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 50, wherein X is H or C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl.

52. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 51, wherein X is C₁₂ to C₂₀ alkyl

53. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 50, wherein Y is N-R₃, in which each R is independently selected from C₁ to C₅ alkyl.

54. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 53, wherein each R is CH₃.

55. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the complication of atherosclerosis comprises a stroke.

56. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of CRP-mediated tissue damage associated with stroke, ~~in a subject, which comprises the method comprising administering to the a subject in need thereof~~ an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting the binding of ~~C-reactive protein (CRP)~~ CRP to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof;

wherein the compound comprises phosphocholine or a derivative thereof and binds to the calcium-dependent ligand binding site of CRP so as to interfere with binding of CRP to the autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof.